



**WALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL
INCLUDING FONTWELL AND BINSTED**

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DRAFT – NOT YET CONFIRMED

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE
PAVILION AT 7.30pm ON TUESDAY 30 JANUARY 2024.**

1. Record of attendance and apologies

38/24 In attendance: Cllrs Titmus (Chair), Vawer, Hewson and McElvogue.

Apologies: Cllrs McAuliffe.

7 members of the public were also in attendance, 1 virtually via teams.

C Stevens – Clerk.

2. Declaration of interests in items on the agenda

39/24 Cllr Titmus declared a personal interest in agenda item 21 – Fontwell Community Hall.

Cllr Vawer declared a personal interest in agenda item 19 – website hosting and support.

Cllr McElvogue declared a personal interest in agenda item 7 – Business activity review/CIL funding.

Cllr Hewson declared a personal interest in agenda item 21 – Fontwell Community Hall.

3. Confirmation of Minutes

40/24 The minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting of 14 November 2023 were confirmed as being a true record of the business conducted.

4. Actions review

41/43 Actions from the GP meeting of 14 November 2023 were reviewed and updated. To follow under separate cover.

5. Matters arising

42/24 One matter arising from the minutes was in relation to the complaints regarding golf balls coming over the nets and hitting resident's houses. An email was received from the golf club confirming the nets were erected by Linden Homes. The clerk is to follow this up with Linden Homes to see if an agreement can be made on how to progress with this and stop the problem with the golf balls.

6. Public questions

43/24 There were several public questions. The answers to which are as follows:

Box Broadband and Gigaclear are no longer considering adding fibre along West Walberton Lane. It is thought that this is because BT have that location on the 12 month waiting list now.

The clerk is to let Walberton Gardeners Club know that yes they can use the playing field for parking for their open garden event, as long as they have the relevant insurance and marshals in place along with clarification that vehicles are left at their owners own risk and that the playing field is to be left as it is found.

The Walberton sign on the approach from Barnham is to be reported to West Sussex Highways.

The Clerk is to investigate replacements for the broken finger off the finger signpost on the corner of Barnham Lane and Eastergate Lane.

It is unknown whether Jubilee Woods and its benches have been included on the asset register. This will be investigated, and any upkeep of the woods or benches required will be considered.

7. Business activity review/CIL funding

44/24 The business activity register was updated. Several items have now been completed. Nothing further was added.

8. Review asset register

45/24 Nothing to report.

9. Environment

47/24 a. Public space ownership – this is to be merged with the asset register agenda item.

b. Trees and verges including bollards – awaiting John Bentley's report on the damaged tree on the far side of the playing field.

Resolved: Following a discussion on how to proceed with removal/replacement of the broken bollards along Arundel Road and on the corner of Barnham Lane and Eastergate Lane, it was decided to ask to have these added to our Community Highways Partnership to remove, replace and maintain said bollards. Cllr Vawer will map them, and the request will be submitted.

c. Litter and dog bins – bins at both Fontwell and Walberton play areas need to be added to emptying schedule d.

d. Planting & maintenance plan – Resolved: To enter a Parish in Bloom type award/competition in the next 2 years. A planting plan is to be put in place. Cllr McAuliffe will be asked to confirm if he is willing/able to take this on, if not others will be approached.

10. Rights of Way

48/24 Resolved: To move this agenda item to Planning Committee.

11. Pavilion maintenance

49/24 A new urn is required.

Resolved: The Clerk is to purchase a replacement urn up to the value of £100.

12. Bus Shelters

50/24 The Clerk informed the Councillors that the roof from the bus shelter that was knocked down is still intact and has been offered to the Council for repurposing. The Clerk is to approach Lake Road Landscaping to see if that is something they have the capabilities of and are interested in doing. The Clerk will also circulate a brochure and price list from a recommended company who supply and fit bus shelters.

13. Playing field / carpark

51/24 a. Path – The Project Manager and Clerk confirmed that planning permission has been resubmitted for the amended plan and once received the path creation will proceed. The next Safer in Sussex Grant Tranche is due to open in May 2024 at which point we hope to put in an application for funding towards solar powered lighting along the path.

b. Tree works – John Bentley confirmed the 2 maples have been received and he plans to plant them on Tuesday 6 February 2024.

c. Rebound goal – It was discussed where to relocate this. Cllrs agreed that near the cricket nets would be suitable. The proposed location will be specified to residents via the Walbinfont newsletter for consideration and comment.

d. EV Charge points – This is ongoing with several large companies who are looking to provide costings.

e. Moles – It was agreed that something needs to be done to try and minimise the mole activity on the playing field mainly from a safety point of view. Vermicide was considered more appropriate than disposing of the moles themselves. The Clerk is to investigate this option.

14. Village Green, Pond and Community Orchard

52/24 a. Village Green – nothing to report in relation the village green itself

b. Pond maintenance – headwall repair still needs some work.

Resolved: Clerk to email Southern testing and ask the question about disposal of pond sediment.

c. Community Orchard – It was noted that a tree is no longer growing straight up but has seemingly blown over.

Resolved: The Clerk is to ask John Bentley for advice regarding the falling tree.

d. Update on management plan – nothing to report.

15. Play areas

53/24 a. Walberton – The teacup twister was replaced by Foster Landscapes Ltd and the 2 new bins were installed. All scrap was taken away to be disposed of appropriately.

b. Fontwell – The last RoSPA report on the new Fontwell play area was satisfactory.

Resolved: To confirm to Dandara that Walberton Parish Council are happy for the play areas to be opened as soon as possible.

16. Community Resilience including climate change and flooding

54/24 Cllr McElvogue confirmed he is finalising the paperwork on this.

17. Allotments

55/24 a. Walberton – nothing to report.

b. Fontwell – It is hoped that these will be transferred to WPC soon. The extra soil was added and the allotments seem to be draining fine.

18. Communications

56/24 Cllr Vawer confirmed various communications are ready/due to go out including the next Walbinfont e-newsletter, Sussex Local article and the Planning specific article was sent for printing in the latest Parish News.

19. Website Hosting & Support

57/24 Cllr Vawer confirmed that the current cost of this was high at £432+VAT per annum. He proposed switching to a new provider offering a much more competitive rate and increased flexibility over the website itself.

Resolved: To move the hosting of the website across to the company as investigated by Cllr Vawer.

20. Fontwell Meadows Community Liaison

58/24 Nothing to report.

21. Fontwell Community Hall

59/24 A trustee from Community Playcentre @ Walberton gave a detailed presentation of their proposal to 'take over' the Bottle Store (as the Fontwell Community Hall is currently known) to provide a dedicated under 2s childcare setting from 7am-6pm 51 weeks of the year. Several other parties are interested in hiring the hall including other childcare providers along with a yoga class and a menopause support group. WPC confirmed that the date of transfer is still unknown, but they would give serious consideration to the Playcentre's proposal and give them a timeline in due course, once the transfer date is confirmed.

22. Correspondence

60/24 None to report.

23. Quotes and payments

61/24 4 payments were presented.

Resolved: All 4 payments were authorised.

24. Agree meeting actions

62/24 A number of actions were agreed, to be circulated under separate cover.

25. Any other business

63/24 None.

25. Date of next meeting

64/24 The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 7.15pm on Tuesday 19 March 2024.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Signed.....

Chair

Date.....